Statement

Measures taken by the Government for early completion of Tollable Stretches of National Highways

(a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways.

(b) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the NHDP such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of ROBs.

(d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has been simplified. Earlier all the notification under NH Act were vetted by the Ministry of Law. Recently, an amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.

(e) To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. MOU has also been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.

(f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

(g) Terminated contracts have been re-awarded by the NHAI.

Fresh eligibility conditions for developers/contractors

1312. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced fresh regulations and eligibility conditions for Indian developers/contractors;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether Government has also exempted the limit in the number of bidders per project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has exempted road projects from limiting the number of bidders who can be pre-qualified, as required under clause 3.5.2 of the Model Request for Qualification (RFQ), for healthy competition among larger number of eligible applicants who have the requisite experience and capacity to execute road projects.

Widening of Highways in Uttar Pradesh

1313. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the highways in Uttar Pradesh are in bad conditions particularly old GT Road running between Delhi and Kanpur;

(b) what has been done by Government to widen the existing GT Road and also remove the encroachments from both the sides; and

(c) how much money was sanctioned to widen existing highways in Uttar Pradesh and how many Kms. have been added as new highway, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) All National Highways in Uttar Pradesh are being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

(b) Existing GT Road (Delhi to Kanpur, NH-91) is already two laned. Further, Ghaziabad to Aligarh section is included for 4/6 laning under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase III. Bids for 4 laning were invited and two valid bids have been received and are under process for award. Further, Aligarh to Kanpur section has been identified for development to two lane with paved shoulder under NHDP Phase IVA on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis and the work of preparation of feasibility study has been taken up. Encroachment on both sides of NH-91 are being removed on regular interval with the help of District Administration and Police force, in accordance with relevant provisions of law.

(c) In the State of Uttar Pradesh, about Rs.376.56 crore was sanctioned to widen the existing highways and 1085 kms of New National Highways have been added during last three years.

Delay in NH projects

1314. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of the National Highway projects across the country are falling behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to speed up the projects and the details thereof?